

Expanded Natural Resource Interim Committee
North Idaho Working Group
Meeting Notes from June 28, 2004 Meeting
Sandpoint, Idaho

Working Group Members in attendance:

Rep. Meyer, Chairman
Sen. Schroeder
Sen. Compton
Sen. Keough
Sen. Stegner
Sen. Brandt
Rep. Cuddy
Rep. Eskridge

Meeting Notes

Idaho Deputy Attorney General Clive Strong made a presentation about Interstate Allocation of Water. Mr. Strong discussed the four mechanisms for dealing with interstate water issues: equitable apportionment; congressional apportionment; interstate compact; and interstate agreement. Issues about water quality standards were also discussed. A copy of his handout will be made available on the IDWR Legislative Interim Committee website.

Hal Anderson, IDWR Administrator, gave an update on the status of the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Hydrologic Study. The study is underway and progressing through the first year's activities, concentrating on data collection. The purpose of the study is to make technical data available and build a toolbox of information and understanding of the aquifer. The goal is to have credible, defensible information for use in making management decisions in both Idaho and Washington. It appears that a Federal appropriation of \$1.5 million will be provided to support the hydrologic study.

Dr. Dale Ralston made a presentation about the hydrology of the Rathdrum Prairie-Spokane Valley Aquifer and a discussion of ground water problems. His PowerPoint presentation will be available on the Legislative Interim Committee web page.

Helen Harrington, IDWR hydrogeologist, discussed the upcoming (July 2) public meeting for the purpose of discussing the recommended ground water management plan submitted to IDWR by the Rathdrum Prairie Ground Water Advisory Committee. Bob Haynes, IDWR Northern Region Manager, provided background on the activities and issues leading up to the development of the management plan.

Jerry House of the Hayden Lake Recreational Water and Sewer District discussed the issues and concerns the district deals with. The district is addressing the changes in population demographics and the impacts of water quality and district actions.

Several suggestions were made regarding upcoming meetings:

- a. Encourage attendance by Washington State Representative Lisa Brown;
- b. Review the eight items of responsibility listed in the April agenda;
- c. August meeting would be a good time to hold a joint Washington DOE/Idaho DEQ meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2004, in Orofino. Final meeting arrangements will be posted on the web page.

Minutes approved 7/22/04